

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04414 260919Z

21

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /109 W

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R 260710Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1822

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USUN NEW YORK 1052

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, BG, IN

SUBJECT: FARAKKA BARRAGE

1. DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR ADMIRAL KHAN CALLED ME IN TODAY TO ASK OUR SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH'S POSITION IN CONNECTION WITH ITS REGISTRATION OF ITEM ON UNGA AGENDA CALLING FOR EQUITABLE SHARING OF GANGES RIVER WATERS (DACCA 4399). HE SAID THIS STEP HAD BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY INDIAN FAILURE TO TAKE ANY ACTION AS RESULT OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND IN ORDER TO AVOID DISASTER FOR MILLIONS OF BANGLADESHIS LIVING IN AFFECTED AREAS IF PROBLEM WEREN'T SOLVED BEFORE NEXT DRY SEASON, WHICH WOULD BEGIN IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS TIME. BANGLADESH FELT IT HAD NO OTHER OPTION AT THIS TIME EXCEPT TO MOVE THE MATTER BEFORE THE UN AND PRESENT THE ISSUE TO WORLD OPINION.

2. ADMIRAL KHAN RECALLED THAT BANGLADESH HAD PRESENTED A POSITION TO INDIAN GOODWILL MISSION THIS SUMMER CALLING FOR LONG RANGE SOLUTION BASED ON CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS AND RESERVOIRS ON MULTILATERAL BASIS, AND SHORT TERM SOLUTION
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PAGE 02 DACCA 04414 260919Z

BASED ON AGREEMENT ON MONTHLY DIVISION OF GANGES WATERS.

BDG HAD REQUESTED REPLY TO ITS PROPOSAL BY JULY 31 AND INDIAN TEAM HAD AGREED (KHAN NOTED THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN "ORAL"). ON JULY 30 INDIA HAD SENT BDG A NOTE PROPOSING NEW TALKS IN DELHI AND BDG HAD PROMPTLY REPLIED TO EFFECT THAT SUCH TALKS WERE POINTLESS IN ABSENCE OF INDIAN REPLY TO BDG PROPOSAL. THIS HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY A SECOND INDIAN NOTE IN WHICH, KHAN NOTED SARCASTICALLY, INDIA HAD CITED NEED FOR A WHOLE NEW SERIES OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-TECHNICAL STUDIES, INCLUDING A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF THE DIVERSIONS ON CALCUTTA PORT. TWO DAYS AGO BDG HAD ALSO RESPONDED TO THIS NOTE, ADHERING TO ITS PREVIOUS POSITION.

3. I ASKED ADMIRAL KHAN IF HE WERE SIMILARLY CALLING IN OTHER MISSIONS. HE SAID HE PLANNED AT LEAST TO CALL IN ALL MISSION HEADS WHOSE COUNTRIES WERE AMONG THE UN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND HOPED IF THERE WERE TIME TO SPEAK TO THE OTHER AMBASSADORS AS WELL.

4. I TOLD ADMIRAL KHAN THAT I WOULD REPORT THE POINTS HE HAD MADE. I NOTED THAT HE WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH ATTITUDE WE HAD TAKEN TOWARD THIS PROBLEM IN THE PAST, URGING THAT BOTH SIDES FIND A MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. I HAD HOPED THAT THE DIALOGUE FINALLY UNDERTAKEN EARLIER THIS YEAR WOULD LEAD TO SOME PROGRESS, AND WAS THEREFORE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT ACTION AT THE UN WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY. I ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY PROSPECT THAT A FURTHER INDIAN RESPONSE IN THE ONGOING EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS MIGHT OBTAIN THE NEED FOR ACTION AT THE UN. ADMIRAL KHAN SAID HE WOULD NOT ANSWER HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION BUT HE WAS NOT ENCOURAGED BY PAST RECORD TO THINK THAT ANYTHING WOULD NOW HAPPEN TO OVERTAKE THEIR MOVE AT THE UN. HE SAID THE INDIANS HAD CONSISTENTLY SAID ONE THING AND DONE ANOTHER.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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